<u>In the Specification</u>:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 15 as follows:

The receiver 136 (upstream) MAC [[138]] <u>140</u> handles the transmitter data packets. The receiver MAC 140 function is more complicated and includes programming the receiver 136 according to map messages. When the time is mapped, the receiver 136 must be loaded with this map information to determine when each packet is entered. For each message or data packet that arrives, the receiver MAC 140 handles the data encryption and concatenation. The receiver MAC 140 is adapted to handle defragmentation, which is rebuilding of packets that have been fragmented. The receiver MAC 140 is also adapted to handle deconcatenation, meaning that if the packet is large, the MAC 140 divides the packet into several smaller packets according to DOCSIS standards, for example. Receiver MAC 140 may also be adapted to suppress packet payload headers or to perform reverse payload header suppression, for example.